

Message Text

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1. AS EXPECTED, DYULGEROV OF "SOFIACONCERT" NOTED LOCAL CULTURAL SEASON DOESN'T BEGIN UNTIL SEPTEMBER 15, AS DEPARTMENT AWARE. ACCEPTING LIMON COMPANY BEFORE THAT DATE IS IMPOSSIBLE. DYULGEROV THEREFORE REASONABLY ASKED WHETHER COMPANY COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO BULGARIA SEPTEMBER 15-22, WITH TWO PERFORMANCES IN SOFIA SEPT 17-18 (THREE WOULD BE TOO MANY) AND ONE OR TWO IN PROVINCES SEPT 20 AND/OR 21. POSSIBLE PROVINCIAL SITES MENTIONED WERE BLAGOEVGRAD, WHERE LONDON PHILHARMONIC PERFORMED RECENTLY, AND STARA ZAGORA, HOME OF NEW, WELL-EQUIPPED OPERA HOUSE.

2. P&C OFFICER COULD SEE NO REASON TO FORCE "SOFIACONCERT" TO CHOOSE ONE OR THE OTHER ALTERNATIVE IN REFTEL B, AS DYULGEROV'S PROPOSAL SEEMED MORE THAN REASONABLE. HE DID PRESS DYULGEROV FOR ANSWER "BY YESTERDAY"; DYULGEROV NOTED HIS OFFICE IS ALSO MERELY MIDDLEMAN, BUT PROMISED FIRM DECISION -- WHICH THEATERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR WHICH DATES -- BY JUNE 15.

3. DYULGEROV AGAIN ASKED WHAT PIECES LIMON COMPANY PROPOSES PRESENTING IN BULGARIA, AND P&C OFFICER AGAIN
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RESPONDED THIS DEPENDED UPON PERFORMANCE SITE(S). HE NOTED EMBASSY'S AND LIMON'S PREFERENCE FOR STATE OPERA HOUSE, WHILE STATE MUSICAL THEATER APPEARED GOOD ALTERNATIVE, PROVIDED LIGHTING WAS ADEQUATE.

4. IN THIS REGARD, MUSICAL THEATER HAS TEN 3,000-WATT LIGHTS, SIXTEEN 2,000-WATT LIGHTS, TEN 1,000-WATT LIGHTS (24-VOLT), FIVE 1,000-WATT LIGHTS (220 VOLT), AND EIGHT 500-WATT LIGHTS (LOWEST WATTAGE AVAILABLE). ALL ABOVE EXCEPT SIX 1,000-WATT, LOW-VOLTAGE LIGHTS ARE IN HALL, IN BOXES ON SIDES; THE EXCEPTIONS ARE ON STAGE. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE EIGHT-TO-TEN LIGHTS OF VARIOUS WATTAGE (500, 1,000 AND 2,000) ON SIDES OF STAGE, AND SIX-TO-EIGHT LIGHTS OF VARIOUS WATTAGE (500, 1,000 AND 2,000) ON OVERHEAD LIGHT "BRIDGE". MOREOVER, THERE ARE MOVABLE "SPOTS".

5. WHEN P&C OFFICER RAISED QUESTION OF DESIRED 15-LEVA PER DIEM, DYULGEROV SMILED, SAID "NO PROBLEM" SEVERAL TIMES AND STOPPED FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH FLAT STATEMENT: "THEY WON'T BE LEFT HUNGRY".

6. ASKED WHETHER SCHEDULED FLIGHTS OF CHARTER AIRCRAFT WOULD BE USED, DYULGEROV NOTED QUESTIONS OF DATES, SITES AND AMOUNT OF NEEDED PROPERTIES STILL ARE UNDECIDED. IF POSSIBLE, BULGARIANS WOULD PREFER TO USE SCHEDULED AIRLINES; DYULGEROV EXHIBITED CONFIDENCE NECESSARY PASSENGER AND CARGO SPACE COULD BE RESERVED ON BALKAN AIRLINES OR, IF NECESSARY, ON AEROFLOT OR TAROM (ROMANIAN) AIRLINES, WHICH ALSO FLY BETWEEN ATHENS AND SOFIA. IF SCHEDULES DO NOT COINCIDE WITH NEEDS, CHARTER WOULD BE ARRANGED. IN ANY CASE, DYULGEROV NOTED, DESPITE POSSIBLY SIZEABLE AMOUNT OF PROPERTIES, ONLY 23 PERSONS ARE INVOLVED.

7. IN THIS CONNECTION, DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT, IN LINE WITH DEPARTMENT'S ORIGINAL PROPOSAL (REF-TEL C), EMBASSY GAVE BULGARIANS ALTERNATIVES OF PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION OR PAYING HONORARIUM (REFTEL D, PARA 2). SINCE THEN, POSSIBILITY OF HONORARIUM IN LIEU OF TRANSPORTATION HAS NEVER BEEN MENTIONED (REFTEL A, PARA 3).

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8. SINCE HANKINS HAD AGREED SOME DOUBLE ROOMS ARE ACCEPTABLE (REFTEL E, PARA 5), DYULGEROV ASKED WHAT ARRANGEMENT IS OPTIMUM: HOW MANY SINGLES, HOW MANY COUPLES (IME. DOUBLE BEDS), HOW MANY OTHER DOUBLES (TWIN BEDS). COMPANY DIRECTOR WILL HAVE SUITE. WHILE COMPANY DESIRES GRAND OR PARK HOTEL (REFTEL B, PARA 4), THIS MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE; CONVENIENCE TO PERFORMANCE SITE SEEMS PRIME CONSIDERATION, AND PARK IS NOT CONVENIENT.

9. AS HE TOLD HANKINS, DYULGEROV WISHES ATTEND LIMON PERFORMANCE SOMEWHERE IN WESTERN EUROPE DURING SUMMER TOUR. PLEASE CABLE FULL ITINERARY.

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